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will not be wanting in their efforts to conduct the contest to a speedy and honourable conclusion.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant.

A BRITISH MERCHANT.

Oct. 24th, 1812.

DR. CROMPTON'S ADDRESS TO THE ELECTORS OF NOTTINGHAM.

It may be remarked, that, like some other candidates on the side of the people, he was unsuccessful. The address is nervous, and descriptive of our real situation.

GENTLEMEN,

Believing the melancholy situation of public affairs to be principally owing to the criminal indifference of my countrymen to politics, I should deem myself altogether unworthy of the blessings which Providence has bestowed upon me, if I did not lay aside all private considerations, and lend aid to the promotion of those measures which I deem to be necessary for the salvation of our country; I therefore, again offer myself as a candidate to represent you in Parliament.

It is, indeed, a heart-rending reflection, that England, the land of heroes and patriots, which for ages kept the tyrants of the earth in awe, and preserved alive in the world the sacred flame of freedom, should, through the degeneracy of her sons, fall a prey to usurping proprietors of rotten boroughs. Humbly to submit to the dispensations of the Divine will, however afflictive, is a duty incumbent upon us; but to suffer ourselves to be thus pinched of our independence, is a truly degrading circumstance.

It has been said, that the first six hundred and fifty-eight persons who passed over Westminster-bridge would form as virtuous a body of men, as the late House of Commons; in my opinion, this saying is a libel on the passengers; for it would be scarcely possible to find 658 Englishmen, unconnected with court intrigue, and ministerial influence, who could almost unanimously vindicate the attack on Copenhagen, the Walcheren expedition, who would screen an illustrious personage against the general sense of the nation, who would vindicate the sale of seats in the House of Commons, who would avow and justify practices, at the mention of which our ancestors would have started with in-

dignation, and who would have committed to the Tower the greatest political ornament of his country, for discharging his duty to his constituents.

Gentlemen, in making these observations, my desire is to give you some insight into the conduct of those who style themselves Representatives of the people in Parliament. Take but a complete view of the distress they have brought upon the industrious classes of this once flourishing town, and anticipate the still greater distress which must ensue, unless averted by reformation in the House of Commons; you will then spurn at corruption, and esteem no sacrifice too great for the accomplishment of this reform, which will ensure to you the blessings of our invaluable constitution. It may, perhaps, be urged, that although the last House of Commons was openly flagitious, yet it does not follow, that the ensuing one will be of that description. There are no grounds to justify such an expectation: it will spring from the same polluted source, and in consequence of an increase of the means of corruption, will probably contain even a greater proportion of placemen, pensioners, hungry expectants, and every other description of ministerial dependents, kennelled like hounds, and crouching for employment—representatives representing nothing but their own personal interests.

Gentlemen, the principles which I entertained sixteen years ago, and in consequence of which I was then earnestly solicited to offer myself as a representative for Nottingham, I shall retain; and it will now depend upon yourselves whether those principles shall be called into exercise, for your and your country's benefit; or whether you will still longer submit to be the means of perpetuating through your representatives, those abuses and violations of the constitution, which have brought us to the brink of national ruin.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful servant,

PETER CROMPTON.

Nottingham, October 3, 1812.

On the hustings, Dr. Crompton, in his speech, on being nominated, thus described the Whig and Tory parties.

I am no party man, I dislike both Whigs and Tories. I hate the Tory principles of passive obedience and non-resistance, but I respect their open avowal of them, I love the principles of the Whigs, but detest their practices when in power. To

them is to be attributed the introduction of the standing army, the funding system, and that superlatively wicked measure, the septennial act. In latter times, we have had several instances of their political depravity; and when out of place, they loaded the tax upon income with every epithet of abuse; its principle was impolitic, and immoral in its tendency, and that prudential considerations alone ought to prevent an open resistance to it. Yet

these very Whigs were no sooner in office, than they raised this tax from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent. They introduced the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench into the Cabinet; they gave Lord Grenville the situation of Auditor of the Exchequer, an office incompatible with his situation of First Lord of the Treasury; and they even attempted to introduce the Exciseman into your houses, if you brewed a drop of small beer.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

NEVER, in the history of any country, has there happened such a deplorable depression of public spirit, as has taken place, since the year 1782; among the Protestant portion of the Irish community. However it may be accounted for, such is the melancholy fact. Political events are rarely reducible to single or simple causes; and this striking collapse of the public mind may be ascribed to a combination of causes. A state of languor in the political, as in the physical body, is apt to succeed an extraordinary, and, as we are now disposed to believe, an unnatural excitement. Our energies depended rather on extrinsic circumstances, such as the American revolution, than on a pure and disinterested love of liberty, implanted in our own hearts.—“*Virtus Sarmatarum*,” says Tacitus, “*est extra se*,” and such patriotism is seldom of permanent duration. The French revolution had an effect in changing the most fixed principles of men: much as the axis of the globe they inhabit, would have been altered in its direction by the impulsion of a comet; and, in consequence, every thing in Heaven, or on earth, since that period, seems to have been considered under a new position. From a temperate climate in politics, most

people have been suddenly thrown, by the tremendous shock, into a frigid zone of perfect apathy, and many, into a torrid zone of the most ardent and consuming intolerance.

Humanity is always acting under a passion, or a panic; and not a few are glad of a fair pretext, in the intemperance of the times, to forsake an old *profitless* principle, and to commence a course of more lucrative practice. This gradual, but very general secession among all ranks, but principally among professional men, has at first irritated, and at last disposed the constant friends of reform to a seclusion from politics, and an abandonment of all public concern. *Constitution* is the mantling word which, like charity, completely covers a multitude of sins, and all those who will not again be forced into desperate measures, are obliged to succumb in silence, which is soon succeeded by apathy: for public feelings, like all other feelings, decay and die, without being frequently exerted.

A rebellion instigated and forced upon a people, previously deserted by their natural leaders, and driven from the highest hopes to the depth of despair, terminated in a long swoon of all public feeling. During this *deliquium* of mind, our poor